commercialize Education. The Policy envisages that in the interest of maintaining standards and for several other valid reasons, the commercialization of technical and professional education will be curbed. An alternative system will be devised to involve private and voluntary efforts in Education, in conformity with accepted norms and goals.

Government had recently convened a Round Table on Higher Education on 21st October 2009 to advise on important areas of growth in the education sector including the finances to meet the demands of expansion and quality of higher education. During discussion, it was felt that in the matter of skill development and vocational education, a different model needs to be evolved which grants a greater role to the private sector and where the structural requirements of setting up institutions are far more flexible than that for other higher educational institutions. It was decided that alternative models that provide structural flexibility and financial freedom need to be evolved. The Round Table has decided to entrust the responsibility of development of a concept paper to one of its members, Shri Analjit Singh, Chairman of M/s. Max India Ltd.

Celebration of Sanskrit Week

*440. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of activities included in the celebration of 'Sanskrit Week' by Government in the last three years; and

(b) the steps his Ministry contemplates to take to make 'Sanskrit Week' an effective one?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi (RSkS), Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri / Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (SLBSRSV), New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (RSV), Tirupati, which are Deemed Universities, have been celebrating 'Sanskrit Week' with great enthusiasm and fervour every year in the month of August. The last day of 'Sanskrit Week', coinciding with Sharavana Purnima (Raksha Bandhan Diwas) is observed as the 'Sanskrit Diwas'. These Universities have been organizing various programmes to highlight the importance of Sanskrit language and its heritage, conducting literary and cultural competitions for students in essay writing, debate, antyakshari, music, dance, drama etc., and winners are awarded prizes at the end of the competitions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assistance to NGOs in Uttarakhand

3237. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being run by his Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations;

(b) the details of funds allocated to Uttarakhand, Organization-wise and scheme-wise, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide benefit of these schemes at village level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of schemes being run by this/Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations is given in the Statement-I *(See* below). No funds are released to NGOs directly by the Ministry, except for two schemes of Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India and National Project on Organic Farming.

(b) Details of funds allocated directly to NGOs in Uttarakhand, organization-wise and scheme-wise during the last three years are given in the Statement-II *(See* below).

(c) Most of the schemes implemented through NGOs are meant for village level interventions and are implemented through Self Help Groups (SHGs). Government also carries out publicity through print, electronic and other media to bring awareness of these schemes at the village level.

Statement-I

Details of schemes being run by the Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations

Department of Agriculture and Co-operation

1. **Gramin Bhandaran Yojna** - The project for construction of rural godowns can be taken up by individuals, farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, Non-Government Organisations, Self Help Groups, Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Local Bodies and other than Municipal Corporations, Federations, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards and Agro Processing Corporations in the entire country. Assistance for renovation of rural godowns will, however, be restricted to godowns constructed by cooperatives only. This is a back-ended subsidy scheme.

2. **Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization** - Assistance will be available to individuals, Group of farmers/growers/consumers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, NGOs, Self Help Groups, Companies, Corporations, Autonomous Bodies of the Govt, Cooperatives Marketing Federations, Local Bodies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees & Marketing Boards in the entire country. This is a back-ended subsidy scheme. Funds are released as per the specific proposal submitted by implementing agencies including NGOs.

3. **National Project on Organic Farming** - Approved components are being implemented through various State Govt. Departments and agencies and through various Non-Government Agencies(NGOs)/Voluntary Organizations and Autonomous Institute.

4. **Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms** - Provides for utilizing minimum 10% of the allocation on recurring activities at district level through NGOs, FOs, PRIs, Cooperatives, Para-Extension Workers, Agri-preneurs, Input Suppliers, Corporate Sector etc. The Work Plans for involvement of Non-Governmental Sector are, however, firmed up at State level.

5. **Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize [ISOPOM]** - Private sector like NGOs, farmers, organizations, cooperative bodies, public sector agencies are involved the activities of seed production, supply of inputs, extension support and demonstrations to the extent of 15% of allocation of the programme through State Govts. No funds are given to NGOs directly under ISOPOM by this Department.

6. **National Bamboo Mission** - Funds are released to NGOs under this Scheme. This is also Back-ended scheme.

7. Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India Government of India also provide 'Grants-in-aid' in the form of subsidy to NGOs since, 2005-06 for purchase of laboratory equipments for setting up bio-control laboratories @Rs.5.0 lakh per NGO per bio-lab subject to the conditions laid down in guidelines prepared for the purpose. Funds are released as back-ended subsidy scheme.

8. **Integrated Development of Tree-Borne Oilseeds** - Under this scheme, various programmes namely Promotional, R&D, Technology Development & Refinement, Extension Programmes with 100% grant-in-aid and back-ended credit linked subsidy programmes, with 30% subsidy, 20% beneficiary share and 50% Bank Loan, are being implemented through Govt. agencies, Autonomous bodies, NGOs/VOs.

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

(a) Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme

(i) **Assistance to Fodder Block Making Units** - Assistance of upto 25% of the investment cost is provided under the scheme. This assistance is provided for units under public or private entrepreneurship, including cooperatives and Self Help Groups. The relevant projects are required to be appraised by NABARD or any of the commercial banks.

(ii) **Grassland Development, including Grass Reserves** - Govt. of India provides 100% grant-in-aid to the Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Department.of Forests for rehabilitation of degraded pasture/grasslands. NGOs./Village Panchayats are also involved for development of grassland on Panchayat land and other Common Property Resources.

(iii) **Fodder Seed Production and Distribution Programme** - The State Government furnishes, in its proposals, the details of fodder seeds, the extent of area, details of farmer with whom buyback has been entered into along with the modalities of this arrangement. The State Govt. may involve State Implementing Agency (SIA)/Cooperatives/NGO for implementing projects.

(b) **Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund** - implemented through NABARD. Eligible beneficiaries, under the scheme, include agricultural farmers/individuals entrepreneurs and groups of all sections of unorganized as well as organized sector including cooperatives and NGOs, from any part of the country.

(c) Strengthening of Post Harvest Infrastructure - The programme is implemented through Government undertakings, Corporations, Federation, Marketing Boards, Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups, NGOs, Self Help Groups of Women, SHGs of SC/ST, Private Companies owned by fishermen, SCs/STs. Funds are released on the Projects evaluated and recommended by the State Governments.

Department of Agricultural Research and Education

Department is operating **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** (569) through 91 NGOs in different districts of the Country. In addition, the following **Network/All India Coordinated Research Project**/Centres are being operated at NGO's level:

1. AICRP on Cattle - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
2. AICRP on Goat Improvement - Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute, Phaltan, Gujarat.
3. AICRP on Improvement of feed Resources and Nutrient Utilization in Raising Animal Production - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
4. AICRP on Animal Genetic Resources - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
5. AICRP on Animal Genetic Resources - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
6. AICRP on Cattle - Sri Trust Gaushala, Bhiwani, Haryana.

Statement-II

Organisation-wise and scheme-wise details of fund allocated directly to NGOs in Uttarakhand during last three years

(A) **Department of Agriculture and Cooperation**

There is no direct involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in implementation of most of the schemes of Department of Agriculture & Copperation. However, the following Schemes have direct involvement of NGOs:

1. Strengthening and Modernisation of Pest Management Approach in India: Grant-in-aid to NGOs since 2005 - 06, for purchase of laboratory equipments for setting up bio-control

laboratories @ Rs.5 lakh per NGO. A sum of Rs,3,42,3937/- has been released during 2007-08 to M/s. Sarpit Sewa Sansthan, C-118, Mayapuri, Kumargali, Ajabpur Kalan, Dehradun (Uttarakhand).

2. National Project on Organic Farming: An amount of Rs.329.52 lakh has been released to Director of Agriculture, Government of Uttarakhand during 2006-07. An amount of Rs. 1.44 lakh and Rs.0.37 lakh has been released to Shri Jagdamba Samiti, Vinod Market, Dehradun Road, Rishikesh(UA) and Amber Samaj Sewi Sansthan, Vill. Bank, The. Kitchha, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar(UA), respectively during 2006-07.

During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 22.17 lakh has been released to Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board, Dehradun. Further, Himalayan Institute for Rural Awakening, Ugrasen Nagar, Haridwar Road, Rishikesh (UA), Gramin Vikas Takniki Sansthan, Vill. Saini, Distt. Uttarkashi(UA) and Mahila Utthan Awam Sansthan Bhramkhal Uttarkashi (UA) have been released an amount of Rs.1.92 lakh, Rs.0.10 lakh and Rs.0.10 lakh, respectively. No fund released to any agency during 2008-09.

(B) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

There is no direct involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in implementation of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, though in some schemes cooperatives, federations/self- help groups are involved through State Governments in implementing these schemes.

(C) Department of Agricultural Research and Education

Department of Agricultural Research and Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research operates Krishi Vigyan Kendras(KVKs) through NGOs. No NGO-KVK is granted any financial assistance in Uttarakhand.

Decline in Agriculture land

3238. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the extent of cultivable land in the country is rapidly declining due to classification changed from agricultural zone to industrial zone, commercial-zone and institutional-zone, etc.;

(b) whether Government is visualizing the impending danger to the agricultural produce in the country and the food security;

(c) the initiatives taken by Government to contain the rapid declining of the extent of both wet and dry agricultural land for other purposes; and

(d) the steps which Government considers to boost the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates , the extent of cultivable land has marginally decreased from